

New police chief making improvements, winning fans

By KENDRA JOHNSON
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DUXBURY — Mark DeLuca, a boxer, family man and winner of a Boston police medal of honor, is now making strides as the new chief of the Duxbury police department.

DeLuca joined the force last month from the Boston police department, where he was a sergeant. He was selected from among 65 candidates after former Chief Charles Mazzone resigned for health reasons.

The Dorchester native lives in Whitman with his wife, Lynne, and their five children, Mark, 11, Matthew, 9, Zach, 6, Rachel, 4, and Allie, 3.

DeLuca, 41, said he enjoys his ability to make improvements in the Duxbury po-

lice department, a welcome departure from the many levels required to effect change in the big-city Boston department.

"The big difference that I see is the red tape is missing," DeLuca said. "I'm in a position to change things."

And DeLuca has not wasted any time. Since joining the force, he has acquired a new motorcycle for the department, researched further training for his staff and revived the police color guard, which marched in the Fourth of July parade.

Town Manager Rocco Longo said DeLuca is aware of the time it will take to meet all his goals.

"He understands he's not going to do things overnight," Longo said. "He

wants to make an impact."

DeLuca has also begun the process for state accreditation of the department, a two-year project.

Police union president Christopher Mori said the staff is excited about DeLuca's vision for the department.

"You're always apprehensive when there's change," Mori said. But he said DeLuca has already proved to be a change for the better.

"He's turned this place around," Mori said. "He's just lit a fire under the place."

Mori said DeLuca wants to revitalize the gym, has created a team of officers to do grant writing and is committed to more training and having a supervisor on all shifts.

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A former policeman in Miami and Boston, Mark DeLuca is Duxbury's new police chief, and is already making changes.

New police chief has changes under way

■ DELUCA

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"He just is extremely dedicated to moving the department forward and he's doing it at a tremendous pace," Mori said. "And we're all along for the ride."

DeLuca, who is paid about \$71,000 a year, has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Springfield College.

He has been a police officer in Miami and Boston. He earned a medal of honor in 1995 from the Boston police department for his part in the arrest of a man who was raping a woman on the Boston Common.

DeLuca has been a policeman for 17 years and a boxer for 38. He started boxing when he was 3 years old and was the light heavyweight Golden Gloves champion at 24. He has been the chairman of the state boxing commission, a division of the department of public safety, since March 1998.

All of DeLuca's sons box and he brings his children to the department gym on weekends.

Longo said the transition process for new town officials is always challenging, but that so far, DeLuca has been successful. "I think he's adjusting."